

**Alternatives Federal Credit Union
Ithaca, NY**

Project Title	Welfare to Work IDA Program
Contact Information	Christina Cain 125 N Fulton Street Ithaca, NY 14850 (607) 273-4611 x816
AFI Grant Amount	\$58,824
Nonfederal Support	\$58,824
Project Period	September 2002 – September 2007
Highlights	Alternatives Federal Credit Union is expanding its existing AFI Project and offering 62 IDAs for homeownership, post-secondary education, and microenterprise. The match rate is \$2 to \$1, up to \$1,000 in participant savings over 36 months. In addition to core training, participants can access childcare, medical care, structured planning exercises, financial counseling, credit repair, and specialized financial education.
Target Population	Tompkins County, with a focus on the City of Ithaca, New York.
Grantee/Collaborative Description	Alternatives Federal Credit Union was founded in 1979 and has offered IDAs since 1997. Its first efforts were through the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions' VISTA IDA Program and the American Dream Demonstration program. Under this project, Catholic Charities is providing referrals to the program and delivering case management and crisis intervention services to participants, as well as employment support. Nonfederal matching funds are from private and foundation sources and the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions. As a financial institution, Alternatives Federal Credit Union is providing an array of financial services to participants, such as no minimum balances and free checking.